

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7046

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, BL

SUBJ: PREPARATIONS FOR SAN JOSE CONFERENCE (RIO TREATY)

REF: STATE 133032

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY OF JUNE 18. EMBASSY OFFICERS SPECIFICALLY COVERED POINTS RAISED IN PARAGRAPH 2D AND 4A,B, AND C REFTEL. FOREIGN MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD US POSITION IN ALL THE CASES AND AGREED WITH OUR VIEWS, INCLUDING DESIRABILITY OF AMENDING ARTICLE 17 TO PROVIDE FOR SIMPLE MAJORITY APPROVAL TO LIFT SANCTIONS.

2. DURING DISCUSSION OF FORTHCOMING SAN JOSE CONFERENCE THE ONLY CONCERN EXPRESSED BY THE GOB REPRESENTATIVES WAS THE POSSIBILITY THAT AN ATTEMPT WOULD BE MADE AT THE OUTSET OF THE CONFERENCE TO HAVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CEESI APPROVED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE. BECUASE THE QUESTION OF AMENDING THE RIO TREATY IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THE GOB BELIEVES THAT APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT SHOULD BE BY CONSENSUS, OR AT LEAST BY A 2/3

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MAJORITY VOTE. THEY SOLICITED OUR VIEWS ON THIS QUESTION.

WE REPLIED THAT WE BELIEVED THAT THE US GOVERNMENT SHARED THIS VIEW BUT THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. PLEASE ADVISE.

3. IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE DISCUSSION, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE PROPOSED JULY MEETING IN PANAMA TO DISCUSS THE FORMATION OF AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM FOR LATIN AMERICA (SELA) WOULD BE AN UNPRODUCTIVE MEETING SINCE CONCRETE PROPOSALS HAD NOT AS YET BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO THE GOVERNMENTS FOR THEIR STUDY AND FOR PRELIMINARY EXCHANGES OF VIEWS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. AS DECISIONS TAKEN AT SUCH A MEETING MIGHT WELL BE BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE, THE GOB AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CUENCA DE LA PLATA GROUP BELIEVE THAT THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING COULD BE DIVISIVE AND GENERALLY UNSATISFACTORY. AS A RESULT, THESE COUNTRIES WILL PROPOSE THAT STUDY COMMISSIONS BE FORMED DURING THE PANAMA MEETING AND THAT FORMAL DECISIONS ON PROPOSALS EMANATING FROM THESE COMMITTEES BE MADE AT A MEETING TO BE CONVENED NO LESS THAN 60 DAYS LATER, I.E. 6 TO 8 WEEKS FOLLOWING THE COSTA RICA MEETING.

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